

STEWARDSHIP LOCAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Acquisition of Development Rights (ADR) Program

Authorization: s. 23.09(20m), Wis. Stats.; ch. NR 51, subchapter XV, Wis. Admin. Code

Budget: 10% of the funds appropriated for the Stewardship Local Assistance Grants; up to \$800,000 per year (pending any legislative changes).

Objective: To acquire development rights (easements) in areas where restrictions on residential, industrial, or commercial development would enhance nature-based outdoor recreation.

Eligibility: Towns, villages, cities, counties, Indian tribes, and nonprofit conservation organizations defined under s. 23.096, Wis. Stats. The county, municipality, or Indian tribe must have an approved Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Level of Assistance: Up to 50% matching grants.

Priorities: Priority is given to projects on land that enhances nature-based outdoor recreation, is threatened by increasing development, has frontage on a river, stream, lake, or estuary, creates a buffer between already protected land and residential, commercial, or industrial development, exists within an environmental corridor connecting protected resource areas, or protects natural, agricultural, forestry, scenic, geological, or archaeological values.

Eligible Types of Projects: Acquisition of development rights that provide or enhance nature-based outdoor recreation areas. The project must be part of an approved Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan.

Applications: Application information and forms are available from the DNR regional Community Services Specialists and are due in the appropriate DNR regional office by May 1 of each year.

History: The Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship Program was originally launched in 1990 and in its first 10 years was an outstanding success story in achieving its conservation and recreation goals by providing funding for land and easement acquisition and development of recreational facilities. With strong bipartisan support, the Stewardship program was renewed for an additional ten years as part of the 1999-01 Wisconsin State Budget. The ADR Local Assistance grant program was introduced as part of the Stewardship Program's renewal. The source of funds is through general obligation borrowing. The state of Wisconsin sells bonds to investors now to raise the funds, then pays back the debt over the next 20 years.

Contacts: DNR regional Community Service Specialists; see pages 95-98.

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